

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shintaro SHINKAWA et al. Group Art Unit : 1793
Appl. No. : 10/563,423 Examiner : N. D'ANIELLO
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/009798)
I.A. Filed : July 9, 2004 Confirmation No.: 4497
For : ULTRASONIC WELDING APPARATUS, INFORMATION
RECORDING MEDIUM MANUFACTURING APPARATUS,
ULTRASONIC WELDING METHOD, OBJECT, AND
CARTRIDGE CASE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Election of Species Requirement of February 8, 2008,
Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, comprising claims 1-5 and 9.

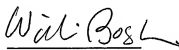
In the Election of Species Requirement, in which the Examiner found that
the inventions of Groups 1 and 2 do not relate to a single general inventive
concept under PCT Rule 13.1, the Examiner noted that "[t]he products of group 2
contain a product with a matte pattern formed by a welding process" and that "the
inventions of group 1 contain an ultrasonic apparatus and method. While these
[sic, 'there'] appears to be a correlation between the matter surface finish of the
product and apparatus a matte finish can be created on the surface of an article
by any welding means and does not provide any contribution to the art. Proof

that this limitation does not provide any contribution in the art can be seen in Japanese Patent 62-21112A which a welded metal object imparted with a matte finish."

Applicants note that Japanese Patent 62-21112A has not been applied in any rejections of the pending claims, and in this regard, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's determinations with respect to Japanese Patent 62-21112A; to the contrary, Applicants reserve the right to traverse any and all rejections of the pending claims based on Japanese Patent 62-21112A.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary for the consideration of this paper to deposit account 19-0089.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shintaro SHINKAWA et al.


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March 10, 2008
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